received

OCT 1 1 2001

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

PUBLIC SURVICE COMMISSION

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| BARBARA | (NRTIN) BORG |
| (Your Full | |
| VS. | |
| VERIZON | |
| (Name of | DEFENDANT) |
| | COMPLAINT |
| The complaint | of respectfully snows: |
| • | (Your Full Name) |
| (a) _ | BARBARA CURTIN BORG |
| | (Your Full Name) |
| | 620 TALLY RD, LEXINGTON KY 4050Z |
| • | (Your Address) |
| (p) | VERIZON (VIRELEGS (Name of Utility) |
| | 5175 EMERALD PARKWAY, DUBLIN OH 43017 |
| • | (Address of Utility) |
| /- 3 | (las aldrahad Can Mark) |
| (c) | That: (Describe here, attaching additional sheets if necessary, |
| | |
| • | the specific act, fully and clearly, or facts that are the reason |
| | |
| | and basis for the complaint.) |
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Continued on Next Page

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| Wherefore, complain | | | | - " |
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| Dated at Louing | +M | , Kentucky, this _// | 1 th day | |
| Dated at 17-22/14 191 | , 14 | , ; | | • |
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| of October | (y) 1 | 21 | | |
| (Your Ci Of <u>OCHOOLE</u> (Month) | y) , ZE , 19 _ | Barbara Your Signa | CULTURA ture) | willy b |
| of October | y) , , 19 _ | Barbara (Your Signa | <i>Cultur A</i> ture) | will b |

COMPLAINT

Complainant states that Verizon Wireless has repeatedly billed her \$175 for "Penalties" in violation of the both its own written contract and the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, which she fears will adversely affect her credit rating if not paid. A copy of that bill is attached as Exhibit A.

Complainant had one cellular line with Verizon for ten years, and added a second line for her son five years ago. Always paying her bill upon receipt, she discontinued her service with Verizon in the spring of 2001 in order to switch to a smaller cellphone not offerred by them. Cancellation of her service was not a problem, but Verizon has fought cancellation of her son's line, imposing penalties in the amount of \$175 (which she has not paid).

During the five years of his service with Verizon, when newspaper ads offerred a new feature to the public at her son's minutes/price level, or when her son's minutes needed to be expanded, Complainant would call Verizon and request that the advertized feature be added or his minutes expanded; it was never a problem until the spring of 2001. When she called on March 7, 2001 to request the advertized feature of unlimited mobile-to-mobile minutes (same minutes/price level as his then current service), she was told something like, "You'll have to have a contract." She responded, "That's fine", thinking that her current contract with Verizon satisfied that requirement.

She believed that she had reached an inexperienced employee who merely misunderstood the situation, and that she could only be bound by a document that she had signed because no "contract" had ever been mentioned when she called before to add a feature or change his number of minutes. In fact, when she asked, she had always been told that this would not extend her contract. She later dug out her contract signed on December 7, 1999, and believed that it had to control the dealings between the parties, or else her law school education was for naught. She had been taught that a written contract could only be superceded by another written contract; therefore, the Verizon representative must be unaware of her current contract with Verizon.

Her son planned to do a summer internship in Los Angelos in the summer of 2001, and she did not want to pay for his unuscable service for those months. Verizon also did not really have a minutes/price increment that worked well for his cellphone needs since he no longer had a land line. When she later called Verizon (in March or April of 2001) to discuss discontinuing his service at the beginning of the summer, she was told that adding the mobile-to-mobile feature (just weeks earlier) added a year onto some existing year's contract Verizon thought they already had with her (of which she was unaware). She was told that his service could not be cancelled until December of 2002, more than twenty months from them!

This was the first time any Verizon representative had ever discussed a specific contract ending date with her.

Verizon's edict was in violation of the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, as well as any notion of fair dealing. Any contract that is not to be performed in one

year must be in writing. When she tried to argue with Verizon representatives, she was told, "You're not trying to work this out." Months later, only after she discontinued the service and when it was too late to do anything about it, Verizon claimed that she only had to fulfill her contract through April of 2002.

The only contract with Verizon that Complainant knew of is the one signed on December 7, 1999, when she purchased a new Qualcomm 860 for her son. This contract was for one year, and states that it would continue on a month-to-month basis at the expiration of the original contract. A copy of that contract is attached as an exhibit to a letter Complainant sent by certified mail to the Administration Department of Verizon Wireless on May 14, 2001. With this letter, she hoped to accomplish an agreeable discontinuation of service, giving them a thirty day advance notice of the cessation of service date. In that letter, she said what she intended to do and requested a response before 5-29-01. It also said that if no response were received, she would assume this was agreeable with Verizon.

This was actually the second time she had informed Verizon by certified mail of the intended discontinuation of her son's line, also informing them two months in advance when she discontinued service for her line. No response was received from Verizon either time, although she has signed receipts from the Administration Department for Verizon Wireless in Alpharetta, Georgia for both letters. Attached as Exhibit B is a copy of her May 14, 2001 letter with its exhibits.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Because Complainant believes that Verizon's policy violates both her written contract and the Kentucky Statute of Frauds, she files this Complaint.

Orally locking customers into contract extensions on top of contract extensions without explaining that it intends to run the contracts consecutively instead of concurrently is unfair and overreaching. The customer should be given notice of Verizon's specific intended contract end date. She seeks relief for both hersolf and countless others who may not be as informed of their legal rights.

It is also not right to attempt to hold customers to longer and longer verbal contracts without requiring a signature before changing the terms of the contract; it simply does not convey the import of the seriousness of requesting a mere change in a feature. If Verizon intends to lock people into contracts longer than one year, it should be required to either mail the customer a contract to sign (which one could read to consider the seriousness of signing up for additional service) or require that customer to come into a Verizon office to sign a new contract before activating the new feature.

Complainant requested at several levels that Verizon representatives check with their attorneys to learn that any contract that is not to be performed in one year must be in writing to be enforceable. She even threatened to file a class action if necessary to establish that what Verizon was attempting to do is not right. On June 20, 2001, a representative of the Public Service Commission

prepared a PSC consumer complaint on her behalf (Number 20012623 - a copy is attached as Exhibit C), but Verizon has failed to correct the "Penalties" charge.

Verizon should be estopped from attempting to lock customers in to longer and longer oral contracts without the requirement of a writing. Her "Penalties" and those of any other simularly situated customers should be erased, so that credit records are not destroyed by this unfair and overbearing practice. Complainant requests that Verizon be forced to obey the laws of the Commonwealth, and be bound by the terms of its own written contract.

verizonwireless

BARBARA C. BORG

Page 4 of 7

Sill Cate.....

Account Number...... Subscriber Number..... June 25, 2001 85216638-228135 (859)533-8539

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| 5/20 2: 24PH LEXINGTON KY (859)312-7141 V 1.60 0.08 0.00 | | 5/24 | | H .INCON! | | (858)533-6539 | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
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| 5/21 1:28PH "INCOHING" (859)533-6539 P 1.00 0.00 0.00 | | 5/ 25 | 5 2:01 | PH RECORDI | NG | (850)533-6539 | P 1.0 | N 4,40 | **** | |
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| DATE COMPLETED CONTINUES C | | | | | | | | - | | |

claimema: #2

. PSC Consumer Complaint

Sent:

07/31/2001

Complaint Number: 20012623

Date Complaint Entered: 06/20/2001

Customer Information

Name: Borg Barbara

Address :

620 Talley Rd.

Lexington, KY 40502

County :

Fayette

Home Phone:

(859)269-7261

Work Phone:

(502)564-7348

Customer can be reached at :

Fax :

Complaint Reason :

Rates/Policies (Objects to utility policy/practices) Email: -

Customer Relations : Failed To Correct Problem Utility Information for Verizon Wireless -

Contact : Charon Harris

Fax Number :

E-Mail:

Investigator : RHODY M :

Customer says that she orginally signed a contract with Verizon for cellular service in 12/99 which was to last for one year. Customer says that she contacted Verizon to add another feature to her phone two months ago. Customer says she recently contacted Verizon to cancel service and was told her contract was extended to 12/02 since another feature was added. Customer says that she never signed a contract that extended the service. Customer wants

Page 1

claimemail2

Verizon to cancel her cellular service and to not charge her a penalty for breach of contract. Customer's cellular numbers are 859-221-8220 & 859-533-9539.

May 11, 2001

Administration Department Verizon Wireless One Verizon Wireless Place Alpharetta GA 30004

Re: Discontinuation of service for (859) 533-6539 (my son's phone)

Dear Verizon,

I shall terminate service for the above number as of 6-12-01. My son will travel out of the country and work in Los Angelos this summer, so he won't need it.

I bought his Qualcomm 860 in December of 1999. A copy of that contract for a year of service, which does not even appear to be signed by me, is attached. At the end of the year, paragraph 5 calls for service to continue on a month-to-month basis. When I saw ads in the paper with a new feature or more minutes at my son's price level, I would call and ask for it to be added, saying it would be unfair to give new customers a better deal than old customers, which is so true.

A March Verizon ad (copy attached) offerred 400 peak minutes, 1,000 night and weekend minutes, free long distance, and added 1,000 mobile to mobile minutes as a new feature at his rate of \$35 a month. I called to add the mobile-to-mobile minutes and was told it would require a contract, and I said okay.

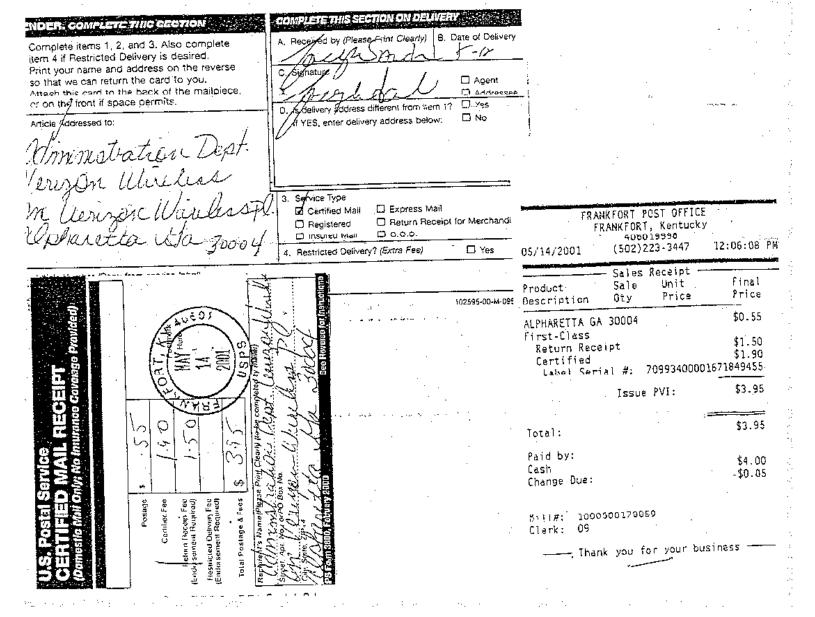
When I checked his contract end date, I was told 12/02. I argued that it could not extend past a year from when I added the new feature. Both the ad and your agent stated that a contract was required; since I already had one, I assumed that the requirement of a contract really just applied to new customers. I haven't signed any documents since December of 1999, so I don't see how Verizon considers anyone bound by a contract (which by your terms will last longer than a year) by oral statements that were ambiguous at best (that a contract was required and my okay since I already had one). The failure of your agent to say this would add a year onto some contract Verizon already thought it had with me (and that the contracts would run consecutively instead of concurrently) left me with the impression that if I already had a contract, that was satisfactory.

You cannot change the terms of your own contract. No oral statement can override it; only another written contract can change its terms. As a lawyer, I know that any contract that by its terms will extend beyond a year must be in writing; this law is called the Statute of Frauds. A copy of Kentucky's Statute of Frauds is attached. Your attempt to orally look people into contracts that extend longer is unfair, overreaching, and legally unenforceable. This response to the competition in the current wireless market will not increase your desirability as a service provider.

Any attempt (including billing, use of a collection agency, or an adverse credit report) to collect any sum Verizon sees as due on my "contract" after cessation will result in my reporting Verizon to the Better Business Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Service Commission (with whom I have already spoken), and the Attorney General, and may even result in a class action suit against you. Unless I receive a response before 5-29-01, I shall assume that this is satisfactory.

called to carrel served 6-14-01

Barbara Borg 620 Tally Road Lexington KY 40502 (859) 269-7261





Invoice # 197746

Date: 12/07/99

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33059 - FAYETTE KIOSK

*** A D J U S T M E N T ***

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City:

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488 HART RD LEXINGTON

40502 ΚY

Street Address:

488 HART RD

LEXINGTON Address

40502 ΚY Zec

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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| | daux least the date of activation. |
| I understand I may not change to a rate plan with a monthly access charge lower than | servers and nagial minutes are rounded up to the next full minute. |
| NOTE: All calls received or placed by Customer's cellular numbers will be billed in one (1) minute inc | senions and parties of high and signature of applicant's identification. |
| ID Affidavit-The information provided on this agreement matches the name, add | ress. Social Security number, date of birth, and signature of applicant's identification. |
| As Witness: | Customer's Signature: |
| - Tari | If Corporate, Title: |
| Salesperson's Signature: | · |
| Date: \Do | Date: (If corporate, signature must be that of official listed in Section A) |
| Phone #; | (If corporate, signature must be that or office the local |
| | CSA/CS/1723 (9/01/99) |

General Terms (

Bartess This Customer Service Agreement (Agreement') is made by and between the individual or organization despited on the bond or this Agreement (Customer) and the adhlate of GTE (COTE) that is ficensed by the Federal Customer) and the adhlate of GTE (COTE) that is ficensed by the Federal Customer (International Customer) and the adhlate of GTE (COTE) that is ficensed by the Federal Customer (International Customer issued of a Coulema face of GTE) is incremation referred to as "Camer", within the area in produced in which Customer resulted by coulemate the Sended Area in Mystalation to the representation and admissional customer (International Customer International Customer (International Customer International Customer (International Customer International Customer (International Customer International Customer (International Customer) and other natural or antificial symptomerors acongress may regulate to interruption or limitations, installation, restitutionally the five and contation of Customer (International Customer) and other natural or antificial symptomerors acongress may condition spenially beyond the customer (International Customer) and international to the network (International Customer) and other natural or antificial symptomerors and underlying customer (International Customer). Service is subject to interruption or international customers and conditional customers (International Customer) and international customers and conditional customers with the customer with customers with the customer with customers and conditional customers with the customers and cust

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that Cazer's is not several insured the importance, our values as several consists of the independent insured the monthly insurance premiums billed to Customer and to pay the full amount ower under the consistence in an insured the monthly insurance premiums billed to Customer fails to pay the full amount ower under under this Agreement, or any other agreement between Customer and Camer, in accordance with the due deals on Customer under this Agreement (D) Customer provides the Agreement (E) Customer is each off; (b) Customer cances Service prior to the end of the Term of this Agreement (C) Customer is asked to it in companies to the construction of this Agreement (E) Customer is asked to it in companies to any others that constitutes illegal or unauthorized use of Service or equipment or (f) Customer uses the Service or equipment in such a manner that it materiers with or adversely affects Camer's service to any other outsiders. In the or equipment in such a manner that it materiers with or adversely affects Camer's service to any other outsiders. If the customer is event of Default by Customer, Camer may disconnected outside the Service of equipment of Default by Customer. Camer may disconnected deposit or reconnection feel to reconnect Service.

It is a service to require the provided of the provided of the provided of the control service. It customer is a feet of the control of the service of the control of the control

General Terms and Conditions

12. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: CARRIER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE to understand the property of the prope

OF ACTION.

13. CUSTOMER INDEMNITY: CUSTOMER AGREES TO INDEMNIFY.

14. CUSTOMER INDEMNITY: CUSTOMER AGREES TO INDEMNIFY.

15. CUSTOMER INDEMNITY: CUSTOMER AGREES TO INDEMNIFY.

16. CUSTOMER'S MISUSE OF SERVICE OR EQUIPMENT RELATING TO GUSTOMER'S MISUSE OF SERVICE OR EQUIPMENT RELATING TO GUSTOMER AGREES TO REIMBURSE CARRIER FOR ANY AND ALL COSTS AND REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES INCURRED BY CARRIER IN DEFENDING ANY CLAIMS RELATING TO CUSTOMER'S MISUSE OF SERVICE OR EQUIPMENT.

14. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES: CARRIER IS NOT THE MANDIFICTURER OF ANY EQUIPMENT OR ANCILLARY PRODUCTS MANDIFICTURER OF ANY EQUIPMENT. AND NO PERSON IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ANY SUCH WARRANTIES ON CARRIER'S BEHALF. CARRIER MAKES NO WARRANTIES EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, REGARDING THE SERVICE OR PRODUCTS EXPRESS OR IMPLIED OF MARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY.

16. VERNING TO ANY ANY ANY ANY ANY OF THE WARRANTIES AGAINST INTERFERENCE, AND ANY OTHER WARRANTY IMPLIED BY LAW. NO STATEMENT REGARDING EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS OR SERVICE SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A WARRANTY. AS A WARRANTY.

15. Regulation Coverning Law, and Severability. The provision of Service under this Agreement is regulated by the FCC. and may 5e regulated by sure or local protection of Service under this Agreement and to the provision of Service under this Agreement that are necessary to comply with statutes rules or regulations governing the provision of the Service. This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State in rules or regulations governing the provision of the Service. This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State in which Service is provided it any part of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain yall and networthing.

which Service is provided. If any part of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforcable, the remaining provisions shall which Service is provided. If any part of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforcable, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforcable. It is privacy of Service; Complete privacy of Customer's conversablors white using a cellular identification of Camer monitoring and the report of the control of Customer's cellular telephone is lost, stolen, or otherwise absent from Customer's 17. Unauthorized Usages; if Customer's cellular telephone is lost, stolen, or otherwise absent from Customer's permission, or if the cellular telephone is used without Customer's permission, out on the bandwhelm use, including, but not limited to, police reports and affidavits. If Camer determines that tussomer is cellular to the bandwhelm use, including, but not limited to, police reports and affidavits. If Camer determines that tussomer is cellular telephone in uniform for a camer to authorization of Clustomer and Customer to all part telephone investigation. Customer expressly subhocias Camer, Camer's spents, or the softcareant agencies of call any telephone investigation. Customer expressly subhocias Camer, Camer's spents, or the softcareant agencies of call any telephone investigation and the reasonable precausions as Camer prescribes from Customer's failure to cooperate with Camer in any investigation and take reasonable precausions as Camer prescribes from time to time with causin in Customer's illability for such usage.

18. Account Changes by Telephoner; Customer authorizes Camier to make changes to Customer's association in soft and the cellular telephone author association to the control of the provided customer and the cellular telephone author in any control of the control of the provided customer's permission and the cellular telephone author is associated to customer to the provided customer and the cellular telephone author in any customer authorizes.

Customer under una expresioners.

19. <u>Transfer of Agreement, Assignment</u>: Customer may not transfer or assign this Agreement, either in whole or in part, 19. <u>Transfer of Agreement, Assignment</u>: Customer may assign this Agreement and all of its rights and dules under this unless so authorized in writing by Camer. Carrier may assign this Agreement and all of its rights and dules under this Agreement.

Agreement.

70. Rate Plan and Account Transfer Figs.: Subject to Carrier's approval and any applicable fees, Customer may change to another Carrier rate plan then in effect at the end of any billing period. Customer is advised that some agents for Carrier is advised that some agents for Carrier is an once fees for transferring Customer's another rate plan. These fees are separate from any fees required by Carrier and are not within Carrier's control.

21. **Subject.** Certific role and prefixed ordered in Customer's lost known address.**

22. **Non-Waiver** Failute of either party to this Agreement to enforce any right shall not consulte a waiver of any other right, whether of a similar of dissimilar nature, and shall not prohibit the exercise of the same right at a fullare date.

pate.

23. 311 Emergency Services; Customer acknowledges that when calling 911 Emergency Services, Customer's focation will not be known submatically by the operator answering the 911 call. Customer must provide the operator specific information identifying the Customer's location.

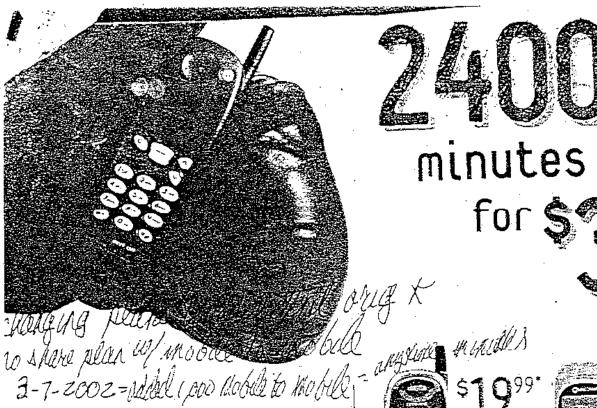
24. TTY/TOQ Due to sechnical ecompatibility, Customer cannot use a Telecommunication Genics for the Ceal (TTY/TOQ) in the call 911 call.

24. TTY/TDQ Oue to technical incompationly, Customer cannot use a Telecommunication Gence for the Deat (117/DQ) to call 911 with a digital wireless phone.

23. Experiment of the company of the agreement is not stoned by Customer, diagrament or receipt of calls by Customer shall obligate Customer to and shall consulte Customer's acceptance of, this terms and unknown as the consultance of the company of of the compa

Agreement.

26. Entire Agreement: The (erms and conditions set forch is this Agreement represent the entire agreement between the games with respect to Service provided by Carner, and this Agreement supercedes any prior or contemporaneous games with respect to Service provided by Carner, and this Agreement supercedes any prior or contemporaneous representations of sales representations of sales representations of other personnel of carner whether of a or written. No change to the terms or conditions of the Agreement has seen authorized, and no such change will be valid or enforceable unless confirmed in writing by an officer of GTE.



'he DigitalChoice" Offer loutime minutes

Includes Nationwid Long Distance

light & weekend minutes

<u> 1abile-ta-mobile minutes</u>

Home area wireless calls between

lotal minutes

"With annual contract, Additional plans evailable.

(Includes Nationwide Long Discance



Audiovox 130

Prices available with annual contract.



Kyocera 2035a

Fully data and two-way messaging capable tri-mode phone.



6M-9PM Mon-Sun Join in.

erizonwireless

1.800.2 JOI

verizonwireless.com

COMMUNICATIONS STORES

TWO LEXINGTON LOCATIONS

- Fayeπa Mali * + FRANKFORT

Franklin West Shopping Center 875-2284

BUSINESS SALES

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS Offer may vary at these locations.

Cattular Sales 859-335-6635 Cellupage of Kentucky 859-246-0505





Unless to terms of Calillar Service Agreement and Price Plans. Annual contract required, early termination (se applies: Requires credit approval Cannot be combined with other offers. Unless the charges for head full minute. Universal termination (se applies: Requires credit approval Cannot be combined with other offers. Unless that one of the provided full minute. Universal Cannot be combined with other offers. Annual contract required, early Required. Geographic and other restrictions apply. Nights Monday Intrough Thursday 3 pm. + 5.59 a.m. Weeke 10 pm. Finday through 6.59 a.m. World Other charges and restrictions may apply 2001 Ventor Officialists.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

371.010. Statute of frauds - Contracts to be written.

No action shall be brought to charge any person;

For any representation or assurance concerning the character, conduct. credit, ability, trade, or dealings of another, made with intent that such other may obtain thereby credit, money, or goods;

Upon any promise to pay a debt contracted during infancy, or any ratification of a contract or promise made during infancy;

(3) Upon any promise of a personal representative as such to answer any liability of his decedent out of his own estate;

(4) Upon any promise to answer for the debt, default, or misdoing of another:

(5) Upon any agreement made in consideration of marriage, except mutual promises to marry;

(6) Upon any contract for the sale of real estate, or any lease thereof for longer than one year;

(7) Upon any agreement that is not to be performed within one year from the making thereof;

(8) Upon any promise, agreement, or contract for any commissi noor compensation for the sale or lease of any real estate or for assisting another in the sale or lease of any real estate; or

(9) Upon any promise, contract, agreement, undertaking, or commitment to loan money, to grant, extend, or renew credit, or make any financial accommodation to establish or assist a business enterprise or any existing business enterprise including, but not limited to the purchase of realty or real property, but this subsection shall not apply to agreements pursuant to which credit is extended by means of a credit card-or similar device, or to consumer credit transactions,

unless the promise, contract, agreement, representation, assurance, or ratification, or some memorandum or note thereof, be in writing and signed by the party to be charged therewith, or by his authorized agents It shall not be necessary to express the consideration in the writing, but it may be proved when necessary or disproved by parel or other

(470: amend. Acts 1950, ch. 174; 1990, ch. 259, § 1, effective July 13, 1990.)

Cross-References. Assignment by tenant invalid unless landlord gives written consent, KRS 383,180.

Conveyance for over five years or marriage agreement to be acknowledged or recorded, KRS 382.080.

Landlord and tenant, recovery on oral contract between, KRS 383.090.

Law impairing obligation of contract forbidden, Const., § 19.

Lessee's agreement to erect similar buildings to be in writing, KRS 383.170.

Mortgage, release, or waiver of exemption to be in writing, KRS 427.100.

Writing required to be signed must be signed at end, KRS 446.060.

Kentucky Law Journal. Hall, Rights of a Teacher in the Public Schools When School Is Closed, 25 Ky. L.J. 261 (1937).

Ferguson, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings in Kentucky Other than for Judgment Notwithstanding the Verdict, 25 Ky L.J. 263 (1938).

Farming, Some Observations of the Called Doctrine of Mutual Remedy and Its Application in Kentucky, 26 Ky. L.J. 129 (1938).

Gilbert, Conveyances — Validity of Parol Agreements as to Determinable Boundary Lines, 27 Ky. L.J. 340 (1939).

Evans, The First Words in a Deed and the Last in a Will Prevail" or "Testamentary Re-